

REMARKS

Claims 18 to 34 are pending in this application of which claims 18 and 28 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Ewin et al. (U.S. Patent 3,536,842) in view of Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary (MPCD). Claims 19 and 27 to 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Ewin in view of Kelly et al. (U.S. Patent 4,862,496) and MPCD. As shown above, Applicant has amended the claims to define the invention more clearly. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the art rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 is directed to a method for determining a connection path in a communication network. The method includes determining whether a connection path to a destination node of the communication network is stored in a second memory. If the connection path is not stored in the second memory, the connection path is determined based on network data stored in a first memory. The network data describes the communication network. The method also includes storing the connection path in the second memory and communicating path information corresponding to the connection path to network nodes that are part of the connection path in order to set up the connection path.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 1. In particular, as indicated in the Office Action, Ewin does not disclose or suggest determining whether a connection path to a destination node of the communication network is already stored

in a second memory and, if not, determining and storing the connection path in order to set up the determined connection path to the destination node.

To make-up for the deficiencies in Ewin, the Examiner has cited MPCD. MPCD describes a cache memory that checks to see whether it holds an address in cache and if the address is not in cache, then regular memory is accessed to obtain another pre-stored connection path. However, MPCD does not disclose or suggest determining a connection path, much less determining a connection path using retrieved data if the connection path is not found in memory. Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 28 is directed to switching equipment for determining a connection path in a communication network. The equipment includes line units connected to terminal equipment or to switching equipment. The equipment also includes a first memory for storing network data that describe the communication network, a second memory for storing connection paths that connect the switching equipment to destination switching equipment on the communication network, and a control unit that receives a connection inquiry via one of the line units for a connection to the destination switching equipment and searches the second memory for a connection path to the destination switching equipment and, if a connection path is not found in the second memory, determines a connection path to the destination switching equipment based on the network data stored in the first memory and stores the connection path in the second memory. The control unit, after finding the connection path stored in the second memory or determining the connection path based on the network data stored in the first memory, communicates information corresponding to the connection path via a corresponding line unit to

further switching equipment that is part of the suitable connection path in order to set up the connecting path to the requested destination switching equipment.

As noted above with respect to claim 18, Ewin and the MPCD reference do not disclose or suggest determining whether a connection path to a destination node of the communication network is already stored in a second memory and, if not, determining and storing the connection path in order to set up the determined connection path to the destination node.

Kelly does disclose determining the connection path probabilistically; however, it does not describe first checking to see if the connection path is stored and then determining and storing the connection path based on data that describes the network. Accordingly, even if Kelly were combined with Ewin and the MPCD reference, the resulting hypothetical combination would fail to disclose or to suggest determining whether a connection path to a destination node of the communication network is already stored in a second memory and, if not, determining and storing the connection path in order to set up the determined connection path to the destination node.

Claim 28 is therefore believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the below address. Applicant's attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below.

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Page : 13 of 13

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Enclosed is a \$420 check for a Two-Month Extension of Time fee. No other fee is believed to be due for this Amendment; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket 12758-049US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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